

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 201

Congratulating the Russian Federation and the citizens of St. Petersburg
on the 300th anniversary of the founding of the city.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Russian Federation and the citizens of
St. Petersburg on the 300th anniversary of the founding
of the city.

Whereas on May 27, 1703, Peter the Great founded St. Petersburg;

Whereas May 27, 2003, is the 300th anniversary of the
founding of St. Petersburg;

Whereas during the course of the Northern War with Sweden
in 1700, Russian forces gradually moved from the Lake
Ladoga region down the Neva River to the Swedish fort
of Nienchanz;

Whereas the Russians successfully gained control over the
Neva river and on May 27, 1703, the St. Petersburg for-

tress was founded, officially founding the city of St. Petersburg;

Whereas in 1712 the Russian capital was moved from Moscow to St. Petersburg;

Whereas in 1762 Catherine the Great assumed power after a coup d'etat and transformed St. Petersburg into one of the cultural capitals of Europe;

Whereas under the patronage of Catherine the Great, the arts, science, trade, and educational institutions flourished, and the Hermitage Museum was created, the largest art gallery in Russia and among the largest and most respected art museums in the world;

Whereas in 1914, during World War I, St. Petersburg was renamed to Petrograd, and the city suffered through famine, frigid temperatures, and social unrest only to emerge with a newfound patriotism and citywide pride;

Whereas in November 1917, Vladimir Lenin headed the Bolshevik revolution, captured political power, and established a 73-year Communist regime, later depriving the city of its status as the capital of Russia;

Whereas after the death of Vladimir Lenin in 1924 the name of the city was changed to Leningrad representing the change to a Communist regime;

Whereas after emerging from years of bloody revolutions and a dramatic population decrease, the once majestic city began a slow economic and cultural recovery only to suffer under Joseph Stalin's regime;

Whereas on September 8, 1941, with the German army fully encircling Leningrad, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad began and 2,887,000 heroic citizens of the city suffered

through a winter with no heating, no water supply, almost no electricity, and very little food;

Whereas the 900-day siege ended after the death of more than 600,000 Russian citizens; and

Whereas after decades of Communist rule, in the midst of the turmoil of perestroika, the city was once again renamed St. Petersburg and began a period of rebuilding, revitalization, and regrowth: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) congratulates St. Petersburg on the 300th
4 anniversary of the city's founding;

5 (2) recognizes the cultural and historical importance of the city of St. Petersburg and expresses its
6 gratitude toward the city and its people;

7 (3) expresses the deepest sympathy for the
8 hardships that the people of St. Petersburg have endured throughout its 300 years, and especially during the period of Communist dictatorship; and
10
11

12 (4) joins the citizens of St. Petersburg in commemorating this important moment in history.
13

○